



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, June 7, 2007

ARIZONA ENHANCES CAMPUS SECURITY
Colleges, Universities Work Together to Share Best Safety Ideas

PHOENIX – In the wake of the April 16 shootings at Virginia Tech University, Governor Janet Napolitano asked Arizona's public colleges and universities to closely review their campus security plans and tactics for responding to a campus emergency. Today, at the Arizona Campus Security Forum, leaders held a comprehensive discussion of the issues, the challenges, and ways to improve safety systems.

"The Virginia Tech incident was a terrible reminder that we must constantly review how we manage student and faculty safety," said Governor Napolitano. "We know we have excellent systems in place. This was a discussion about how to make them better."

The forum was held in Phoenix, and representatives of nearly 40 Arizona colleges, universities and public safety agencies participated. Discussion focused on an exchange of 'best practice' ideas and government and public safety reference information. In addition, the Arizona Department of Public Safety will facilitate "table-top" training exercises to help colleges and universities adequately prepare, and will make officers available to review campus security infrastructure.

"It is very encouraging that the Governor is taking the steps to address these issues. There are many complex issues when it comes to campus security - from resources to equipment. This is a great first step in an ongoing dialogue to enhance campus security in Arizona," said Luis Martinez, the Chief of Security for Central Arizona College.

There will be additional follow-up before school reconvenes in the fall, to track the progress of each campus.

For more information about the Office of the Governor, please visit www.azgovernor.gov.